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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 NORTHWEST  
11 ADMINISTRATORS, INC.,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 HW MAINTENANCE LAX, LLC,

15 Defendant.

CASE NO. C20-0594JLR

ORDER OF DEFAULT

16 This matter comes before the court on the court's June 26, 2020 order to show  
17 cause. (*See* 6/26/20 Order (Dkt. # 7).) In that order, the court noted that Defendant HW  
18 Maintenance LAX, LLC ("HW Maintenance") filed an answer to Plaintiff Northwest  
19 Administrators, Inc.'s complaint signed by Jose D. Gutierrez. (*See id.* at 1-2 (citing Ans.  
20 (Dkt. # 6) at 4).) However, the answer and Mr. Gutierrez's signature block fail to  
21 indicate whether Mr. Gutierrez is proceeding *pro se* or whether he is appearing as counsel  
22 on behalf of HW Maintenance. (*See* Ans. at 4.) As the court noted, if Mr. Gutierrez is an

1 attorney, the court's local rules and electronic filing procedures require that he list his bar  
2 number, address, phone number, and email address on the signature block. (*See* 6/26/20  
3 Order at 1-2.) Alternatively, if Mr. Gutierrez is not an attorney, then he cannot represent  
4 HW Maintenance *pro se*, meaning his attempted appearance is improper under the court's  
5 local rules and established Supreme Court precedent. *See Rowland v. Cal. Men's Colony*,  
6 506 U.S. 194, 202 (1993) ("It has been the law for the better part of two centuries . . . that  
7 a corporation may appear in federal courts only through licensed counsel . . . . [T]hat rule  
8 applies equally to all artificial entities."); Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 83.2(b)(3) ("A  
9 business entity, except a sole proprietorship, must be represented by counsel.").

10 Accordingly, the court ordered HW Maintenance to "re-file its answer with an  
11 appropriate signature block for Mr. Gutierrez if he is an attorney, obtain counsel to  
12 represent it in this lawsuit if Mr. Gutierrez is not an attorney, or show cause within 30  
13 days of the filing date of this order why the court should not enter default against HW  
14 Maintenance if it remains unrepresented by counsel." (*See* 6/26/20 Order at 2-3.) The  
15 court warned HW Maintenance and Mr. Gutierrez that failure to respond or show cause  
16 would result in default. (*See id.*) Mr. Gutierrez and HW Maintenance failed to re-file

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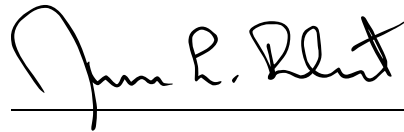
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1 HW Maintenance's answer, obtain counsel, or show cause within 30 days. (*See generally*  
2 Dkt.) Accordingly, the court DIRECTS the Clerk to enter default against HW  
3 Maintenance. *See* Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 83.2(b)(3) (authorizing the court to  
4 enter default against a business entity that fails to obtain counsel).

5 Dated this 20th day of November, 2020.

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8 JAMES L. ROBART  
9 United States District Judge  
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